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Chaereas, the brother of Smicrines, has suddenly died. An interlude by the chorus (χοροῦ) is followed by a scene in which Smicrines' satisfaction over his new wealth is interrupted by the entrance of a slave, doubtless the tricky Δᾱος, announcing a sudden misfortune:

ὦ δαίμονες, φοβ[ερ]όνγε, νῆ τὸν Ἥλιον,
τὸ συμβεβ[η]κός· οἴκ' ἂν ὥθηεν ποτέ
ἄνθρωπο[ν εἰς] τοσοῦτον οὕτωςι ταχύ
πάθος ἐμπεσεῖν, σκηπτός τις εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν
ράγδαῖος ἐμπέπτωκε.

This disaster is of course the pretended death of Chaereas, for which the slave tries to console his master by ostentatiously quoting from the tragic poets. These quotations include Aeschylus, frag. 159 N², the opening of Euripides' *Orestes*, as well as a new fragment from the same poet, happily documented:

‘τὰς γὰρ συμφορὰς
ἀπροσδοκίτους δαίμον[ες δι]ώρισαν.’
Εὐριπίδου τοῦτ’ ἐστί.

There is also a new fragment of Carcinus, followed by a quotation from an unknown poet—unless, indeed, it also belongs to Carcinus:

‘[οὐ]δ’ ἔστιν ἄπιστον τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις κακῶν,’
[ὦς] Καρκίν[ος] πού φησ’· ‘ἐν μὲ γὰρ ἡμέρα
τὸν εὐτυχ[ῆ τιθῆ]σι δυστυχή θεός.’

Finally we have the colorless *sententia*:

‘οὐδὲν γὰρ ἄλογον δεινόν.’

Although we cannot make out the plot, the fragments are thus seen to be not without interest, if for no other reason, because of the new quotations which they contain. Some happy find may help to complete the comedy.

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NOTES ON PETRONIUS

Petr. 69.5: Buecheler, following the MS (H), reads: “harundinibus quassis choraulas imitatus est.” At 136. 11, “collocavit illa ignem cassis harundinibus collectum,” Buecheler reads *cassis* from O, rejecting *quassis*, the reading of L. In 69. 5 *quassis* fails to give a satisfactory meaning. Friedländer’s version “mit zerbrochenen Rohrstücken” makes the best sense, but Petronius does not elsewhere use *quatio*(*quassus*) in this meaning (cf. Segebadé and Lommatzsch, *s.v.*); the form *quassata* does occur (cf. 134, “primo ictu harundo quassata”). The English translators, Lowe and Heseltine (Loeb Library), adopt the meaning “brandish,” but this hardly seems